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**NOVEMBER 1969  
VOLUME 23  
NUMBER 3**

**THE UNIVERSITY  
OF CHICAGO  
GRADUATE  
LIBRARY  
SCHOOL**

**BULLETIN  
OF THE  
CENTER FOR  
CHILDREN'S  
BOOKS**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS**



## EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R     Recommended
- Ad    Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.
- M     Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.
- NR    Not recommended
- SpC   Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
- SpR.   A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

Except for pre-school years, reading range is given for grade rather than for age of child.

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BULLETIN OF THE CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS is published monthly except August by The University of Chicago Press for The University of Chicago, Graduate Library School. Sara I. Fenwick, Faculty Representative; Mrs. Zena Sutherland, Editor.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$6.00 per year; \$5.00 per year for each additional subscription to the same address. Single copy price: \$1.00. Checks should be made payable to The University of Chicago Press. All notices of change of address should provide *both* the old and the new address. Subscriptions will be entered to start with the first issue published after order is received. Address all inquiries about subscriptions to The University of Chicago Press, 5750 Ellis Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60637.

Please send editorial correspondence, review copies and all correspondence about reviews to Mrs. Zena Sutherland, 5835 Kimbark Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60637.

Second-class postage paid at Chicago, Illinois.

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PRINTED IN U.S.A.

# Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume 23

November, 1969

Number 3

## *New Titles for Children and Young People*

Aardema, Verna. Tales for the Third Ear; From Equatorial Africa; illus. by Ib Ohlsson. Dutton, 1969. 96p. \$4.90.

R  
3-5      Nine folktales retold from original sources that gave verbatim versions of African storytelling. Several are about the familiar character Ananse the spider, three about humans, and the rest about other animals. All are concerned with trickery, the prankster sometimes suffering retribution, sometimes emerging in triumph from danger. The style is occasionally awkward, but the tales are full of action and humor, and are an excellent source for storytelling. The illustrations are in dull colors: mustard, avocado, brown, and black, most of them busy with detail. The print is large and clear; a brief section of notes gives original sources and some explanations or definitions of words and phrases.

Agassi, Joseph. The Continuing Revolution; A History of Physics. McGraw-Hill, 1968. 225p. illus. (The History of Science) \$5.95.

R  
7-10      Although the form in which this book is written (a Platonic dialogue between father and Aaron, his son) is often irritating because the questions seem so artificial, this is an excellent history of physics. The author not only describes scientists, their theories, and their discoveries, but he examines and analyses propositions in physics with the persistent objectivity and self-suspicion that are the foundation of the scientific method. The format, despite its obtrusiveness, does make it possible for father to explain to son (occasionally demolishing erroneous concepts) some very basic hypotheses and to avoid the position of having an author argue with himself. A bibliography precedes the separate name and subject indexes.

Aiken, Joan. A Necklace of Raindrops; And Other Stories; illus. by Jan Pienkowski. Doubleday, 1969. 94p. \$3.95.

Ad  
3-5      A collection of brief, fanciful stories of variable effectiveness. The title story is a graceful fantasy, another is a tale of magic that was possible only when Emma's cat sat on the mat. The other stories are a bit heavy-handed in their humor, the Aiken penchant for exaggeration that is so effective in her books for older children a bit cumbersome here. The plots, however, are inventive and the illustrations (some in color, most in silhouette) attractive.

Asimov, Isaac. The Dark Ages. Houghton, 1968. 256p. illus. \$4.50.

R  
7-12      Asimov's particular genius is in the ability to present an immensely complicated historical chronicle and to make it both interesting and meaningful without slighting major events or sacrificing colorful minutiae or the minor contributing factors that bring the past to life. Here he examines the growing might of the barbarian tribes in the thousand years before the birth of Christ, the thrust and counter-thrust of Rome and the northern tribes, the Roman decline and the pageant of kings and kingdoms in the long centuries during which learning waned and Christianity quietly grew stronger. The book ends with the last of the Carolingians and the election of the first king of a united France, the scholarly influence of Pope Sylvester II, and the advent of the medieval knight. A chronology, several dynastic charts, and an index are appended.

Bible. The Nativity; The Christmas Creche at the Metropolitan Museum of Art; photographed by Lee Boltin; commentary by Olga Raggio. Doubleday, 1969. 57p. \$7.95.

SpC  
All  
Ages      In the Metropolitan Museum of Art a Christmas creche is assembled each year, the figures coming from an eighteenth-century Neapolitan collection. In handsome and dignified format, the first part of the book comprises color photographs of the creche figures and the story of the Nativity from the King James version of the Bible. The second part discusses at some length (and certainly for a mature reader) the history of the creche as part of the Christmas celebration and particularly its popularity in Naples. Although the first part of the book can be enjoyed by any age and is particularly appropriate for religious education collections, the comment (by the museum's Curator of Western European Arts) suggests that the book as a whole may be most useful in an art collection.

Bonham, Frank. The Vagabundos. Dutton, 1969. 222p. \$4.75.

R  
7-10      Eric Hansen's father was wealthy, retired, and bored; when he suddenly disappeared, Eric suspected that he had gone off to the Baja California peninsula and decided to follow him. Always his father eludes him, as Eric trails from one place to another; riding, hiking, boating, living a primitive and satisfying life, Eric learns at each place his father has been that there is respect and affection for "El Rojo" Hansen. In the simple life of the local fishermen, the vagabundos, that Eric shares and that he knows his father is experiencing, there is both peace and adventure. By the time that Eric finds El Rojo, he can understand why his dad doesn't want to return to a life of indolence. Eric's adventures are varied, exciting, and believable; the people he meets have vitality and color whether they are American or Mexican.

Branley, Franklyn Mansfield. The Mystery of Stonehenge; illus. by Victor G. Ambrus. T. Y. Crowell, 1969. 52p. \$3.95.

R  
4-6      How long did men toil to build the still-impressive ring of massive stones on the Salisbury plain? How did they do it, and what was it for? Scientists can only conjecture, save for the time of building, now determined by carbon-14 dating to have been approximately 1800 B.C. The author discusses the various theories about the ways in which primitive men might have made the stone pillars, brought them to the site, and erected them. He describes the tentative answers as to the reason for its existence: the possibility that it had religious significance or was

used for astronomical observation. Fascinating material in a lucid, measured book, the handsome illustrations and diagrams making vivid the massive effort that went into the building of Stonehenge.

Bruna, Dick. Christmas; written and illus. by Dick Brunna; English verse by Eve Merriam. Doubleday, 1969. 25p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$4.25 net.

Ad 3-5 yrs A very simplified version of the Nativity, the rhyming text occasionally limping and the style sedate. "The shepherds do not sleep. They stand and guard their sheep. Suddenly in the night comes an angel, shining bright. 'Shepherds, go to Bethlehem,' the angel's voice calls out to them." The shepherds and the kings come, the Baby sleeps, the shepherds return to their flocks. The illustrations are almost like children's drawings, round faces with dots for eyes, but they have a naiveté that translates visually into poster-style effectiveness.

Byfield, Barbara Ninde. The Haunted Spy; written and illus. by Barbara Ninde Byfield. Doubleday, 1969. 35p. \$4.50.

R 3-5 Although this can be read aloud to younger children, and despite the fact that it looks like a picture book, it should intrigue the middle-grades reader from the first page. Weary of his life as a spy (having to wear a trench coat when it wasn't raining and pinching his finger in the false bottom of his attache case) the writer retires to a crumbling and remote castle. His idyllic, solitary life is disturbed by ghostly noises; wearily he dons his raincoat and other paraphernalia and tracks down the intruder. The end (he complies with the ghost's wish that the castle be completed and they become chums) is a let-down, but the concept is amusing, the style light, and the illustrations amusingly detailed.

Carlson, Natalie Savage. Befana's Gift; illus. by Robert Quackenbush. Harper, 1969. 86p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.79 net.

Ad 4-6 A Christmas story set in contemporary Rome. Only old Cesare, of all the carriage drivers, had no male progeny about whom he could boast; much as he doted upon his granddaughter Gemma, the old man was only half-joking when he asked an old woman who resembled Befana (the gift-giver in Italian Christmas tradition) to bring him a grandson. A shepherd lad from the Abruzzi, Davide, is wandering about the city; Cesare and Gemma bring him home. Gemma becomes jealous and sees to it that Davide leaves, then is repentant; she runs into the same old woman, who helps her find Davide and restore him to the bosom of his second family. Although a bit sentimental and dependent upon coincidence, the story has action and suspense, good local color, some interesting Christmas customs, and is written with practiced ease and warmth.

Carr, Albert B. The Black Box; A Science Fable for Children and Some Grown-ups; illus. by William Brooks. Prentice-Hall, 1969. 26p. \$3.95.

NR 3-4 Some boys find a black box on the beach; they cannot open it, nor can a fireman whose help they solicit. X-rays show nothing; the minister has no suggestions, save that the boys take the box to a university. A professor suggests they continue to observe and to adjust their hypothesis to incorporate observed facts. All the boys ever learn is that the box rattles; almost every approach to investigation yields a negative result.

While the conclusion (there is no perfect answer) may be sound, it is not encouraging, and the ending is anticlimactic.

Caudill, Rebecca. Come Along! illus. by Ellen Raskin. Holt, 1969. 31p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.59 net.

R  
2-4 Haiku through the year: direct and simple, the poems capture the brief and compact moments of delight in the natural beauty of the seasons, of flora and fauna, and the moods of weather. The illustrations, strong but never harsh, show a small girl and a still smaller boy gazing at golden forsythia, a leaping gleam of scarlet fish, the pristine iciness of winter boughs. Although there are some words and concepts that impose a challenge, most of the poems can be read to children even younger than the independent reader.

Chubb, Thomas Caldecot. The Venetians; Merchant Princes. Viking, 1968. 162p. illus. Trade ed. \$6.95; Library ed. \$6.43 net.

R  
7- A detailed history of the founding and the intricately eventful development of the small colony of muddy islands that became one of the great city-states of the western world, a commercial power, and a stronghold of wealth and the cultural amenities wealth provides. The career of a fourteenth-century merchant is followed to exemplify and dramatize the potency of the Venetian Empire. Inevitably the discovery of new trade routes sapped that potency and the city, weakened, was buffeted about in the turmoil of the European power struggle. A few paintings and maps are included; a bibliography is appended, as is a list of suggestions for further reading.

Clark, Mavis Thorpe. Blue above the Trees; illus. by Genevieve Melrose. Meredith, 1968. 248p. \$4.95.

M  
6-9 The story of an English family's emigration to Australia in 1877. When William Whitburn's business failed, he decided to try his fortune in the Great Forest of South Gippsland, hoping to be able to return to England in ten years. This is a rather plodding description of the family's struggle to clear land and to have a comfortable life in the wilderness; it is also the story of a Victorian martinet whose family must accede to his every desire, however unreasonable. The setting is entrancing, although the recurrent scenes in which one of the children watches a family of lyrebirds in the rain forest become tedious. The plot is quite patterned, the writing style occasionally awkward, and the characterization flat.

Cole, William. What's Good for a Five-Year-Old? illus. by Edward Sorel. Holt, 1969. 26p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.27 net.

R  
3-5  
yrs Bouncy rhymes and lively, funny pictures in a read-aloud book that catalogs the opinions of a group of five-year-olds (fictional) on the first day of kindergarten. The children take turns telling Miss Revere what they'd like to do "Now Phyllis Ann puts up her hand: 'I think that dressing dolls is grand! Jigsaw puzzles and lacing shoes, And playing tag is what I'd choose!'" Each statement has a mistake; each is followed by the teacher's gentle correction. "'Jigsaw puzzles, dear,' Said Miss Revere." . . . and the illustration shows five wild-eyed youngsters frantically hunting for a missing piece of the puzzle. There's a brief lesson on class-



room etiquette at the close, with an announcement that on this first day of school the program will be playing. The activities will be familiar, the pictures amusing, and the rhyme appealing; what more can a prospective kindergartener wish?

Colman, Hila. Claudia, Where Are You? Morrow, 1969. 191p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.78 net.

R  
7-10 Claudia is an unhappy sixteen-year-old who cannot communicate with her mother. In alternate chapters, they speak; Claudia in first person, her mother in third. A successful woman who deludes herself constantly, Claudia's mother refuses to believe that her daughter doesn't care about clothes and parties; she even talks about sexual relations in a way that makes the girl enraged. Claudia runs off to Greenwich Village, finally finding a job, an apartment, and a boy friend, calling on her parents only when she needs money. Her distraught mother doesn't understand at all; her father does. Unhappily, the parents go back to their lovely suburban home while their daughter rejoices in her freedom. Although the story is patterned in the sense that it is so typical of the suburban rebel, it rings true; the book offers no easy answer. Mother cannot understand, and Claudia rejects all that her mother holds dear. Claudia's experiences in the Village are believable, the writing style is competent, and the portrait of mother is devastating.

Cone, Molly. Annie Annie; illus. by Marvin Friedman. Houghton, 1969. 112p. \$3.50.

R  
6-9 Annie is in despair because of the carefree way in which her parents live: no schedule, no rules for the children, just an assumption that intelligence means you can take care of yourself. Her friend Migs is always being forbidden to do things or told she must do things, and that's what Annie wants. She takes a job in the home of a couple who always do the same things the same way, whose thinking echoes this rigidity, who discourage initiative. Annie learns, living with the Sigbys, to appreciate her own home and her parents. An honest book, refreshingly different, wise in understanding and delightful in the humor and percipience with which the characters are depicted.

Coopersmith, Jerome. A Chanukah Fable for Christmas; illus. by Syd Hoff. Putnam, 1969. 47p. \$3.95.

R  
K-3 Fun to read, an adaptation of Moore's poem that blithely incorporates Moshe Dayan, flying saucers, and brotherhood. "'Twas the night before Christmas," little Murray begins, and explains that it isn't the colored lights and presents that he envies, but the fact that Jewish children have no fat man in red—even if, deep down, one knows he isn't real. Along comes a humming machine in the sky, and therein sits a fat man in red, with a patch over his eye and a soldier's kepi. Murray hopes out of bed and goes along for a ride on a flying version of a Chanukah draydle; in his dream, they fly over the world and see the wonderful variety of peoples and their ways of celebrating. The illustrations are lively, the parody salty and sweet.

Corbett, Scott. Ever Ride a Dinosaur? illus. by Mircea Vasiliu. Holt, 1969. 113p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.59 net.

R  
4-6      A fanciful story, told in first person and imaginatively illustrated. A middle-aged man, meek and quiet, Charlie runs into Bronson (a brontosaurus) in Rhode Island. Terrified at first, Charlie soon realizes that Bronson is friendly. In fact, Bronson—talking a mile a minute and not too modestly—tells him so. What Bronson really wants out of life, and he's been living a long time, is to see the dinosaur exhibit at the New York Museum of Natural History, but he has a poor sense of direction. So Charlie and Bronson become a team, and their adventures make delightfully zany reading—because Bronson can make himself invisible when he chooses, and the possibilities for ploys are infinite. . . .

Crawford, Deborah. The King's Astronomer: William Herschel. Messner, 1968. 192p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.34 net.

R  
6-9      Although highly fictionalized, this very good biography contains dialogue that uses language that seems so right for the period and that incorporates astronomical information so naturally that it is an asset to the book. The German-born musician who turned from a successful career in England to devote himself to the building of telescopes and the charting of the skies was admitted to the Royal Society and was knighted in 1816. He discovered Uranus and its satellites, two satellites of Saturn, infrared radiation, and myriad new facts about stellar movement. The book has a good balance of personal and scientific material; Herschel's training of his sister (who became a major astronomer in her own right) gives the author an excellent opportunity to explain scientific theories. An index is appended.

Edwards, Harvey. Lars Olav; A Boy of Norway; photographs by Ira Spring. Harcourt, 1969. 47p. \$3.25.

Ad  
3-5      Lars Olav Grande is ten, he lives on the banks of a fjord, and he goes to school every other day because there isn't sufficient classroom space for all the children of the village. On alternate days Lars Olav hikes, fishes, skis, or does chores. The photographs (uncaptioned) are interesting; some of them, because of the dramatic scenery, imposing. The text is adequately written, simple and rather placid. As in most books of this kind, there is a moderate amount of local color and background information, but there is also enough familiar pattern to suggest that children differ little the world over.

Edwards, Lovett. Russia and Her Neighbours; illus. by Clifford Bayly. Watts, 1968. 96p. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$3.30 net.

Ad  
5-6      One volume of a series first published in the United Kingdom under the title Oxford Children's Reference Library. The book is oversize, lavishly and handsomely illustrated, with brief "chapters," each on facing pages, and is printed in double columns. The arrangement is partly chronological, with an occasional interpolated chapter ("The Russian Orthodox Church," or "An Englishman Visits Russia"). The historical and geographical material is followed by chapters on some of the peoples of the Soviet Union and on aspects of life there today. An index is appended. Well-written and with more than browsing use, but the reference use is limited by brevity of treatment. This is, however, good introductory material for reluctant readers, despite the small print.

Elgin, Kathleen. The Human Body: The Female Reproductive System; written and illus. by Kathleen Elgin. Watts, 1969. 63p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$1.98 net.

R  
4-6      A matter-of-fact and explicit description of the female sex organs and of the processes of menstruation, insemination, and gestation. The diagrams are clear, although there are minor discrepancies between some illustrations, and pronunciation is given for difficult words. Although the text begins with oversimplified comments on reproduction of living things ("Many plants drop seeds. Seeds can sprout and grow into new plants.") it is, for the most part, precise and accurate, simply written and informative. Some of the text is printed against a dark lilac background, not easy to read. A one-page index is appended.

Elgin, Kathleen. The Human Body: The Male Reproductive System. Watts, 1969. 55p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$1.98 net.

R  
4-6      A companion to the title above, the first several pages carrying the same text although the illustrations differ. Here again, the approach is direct and serious, with accurate terminology and full discussion of organs and their parts, the changes of puberty and the effect of hormone secretion. Both books conclude with the fertilization of an ovum and the beginning of a new life; an index is appended. Unlike other good books (Man and Woman, by Julian May; A Baby Is Born, by Milton Levine; Growing Up, by Karl de Schweinitz) that cover the subject for the same audience, these two books include no ancillary material.

Fisher, Leonard Everett. The Potters; written and illus. by Leonard Everett Fisher. Watts, 1969. 47p. (Colonial Americans) Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$1.98 net.

R  
5-7      Another in a series (originally called Colonial American Craftsmen) that is as handsome as it is useful. This volume is, like the others, divided into a first section that gives a brief history of the development of potteries in the colonies and a second that describes the processes and the raw materials used, the machinery, the variations in the craft, and the role of the craftsman.

Friedlander, Joanne K. Stock Market ABC; by Joanne K. Friedlander and Jean Neal; illus. by Tom Dunnington. Follett, 1969. 96p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$3.97 net.

R  
7-      From the beginning, with a title page showing a stately arch (Stock Market) guarded by Mr. Dow and Mr. Jones, the merry tone of this book is clear. Like the Brindze book, reviewed above, this gives no tips on investment but describes the intricacies of the stock market. The material covered in both books is substantially the same; here there is a little less detail about some aspects of the market, but the book is more than adequate, it is even more lucid than the Brindze book, and it does mention a few things not included there.

Godden, Rumer. Operation Sippacik; illus. by James Bryan. Viking, 1969. 110p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.37 net.

Ad  
6-9      Rifat, a seven-year-old Turkish Cypriot, hated to give up his beloved donkey, Sippacik, to the British soldiers, but Grandfather sold her.

Sippacik was so stubborn that Rifat had to go to the camp to manage her; thus he was instrumental in rescuing the wounded man who turned out to be his father, so long absent as a Greek Cypriot prisoner that Rifat did not recognize him. Very much like Maureen Daly's The Small War of Sergeant Donkey (reviewed in the May, 1967 issue) in which a small Italian boy and a beloved donkey rescue an American soldier. In both stories there is a rather sentimental depiction of the military; although this is written in better style and with often-humorous dialogue, it is a quite patterned story.

Gosfield, Frank. Korea: Land of the 38th Parallel; by Frank Gosfield and Bernhardt J. Hurwood. Parents' Magazine, 1969. 254p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$4.12 net.

R 9- A thoughtful book, comprehensive and informative, that is well-written for the serious reader, and that has a good balance between material that is historical and material about contemporary problems and relationships. Particular attention is given to the USS PUEBLO affair and to the Korean War and its aftermath. A series of documents (the report of a Dutch sailor shipwrecked in Korea in the 17th century, some official correspondence, papers on the PUEBLO and on U.N. truce violations) a bibliography, and an index are appended.

Goudge, Elizabeth. I Saw Three Ships; illus. by Margot Tones. Coward-McCann, 1969. 60p. \$3.64.

Ad 5-6 An unabashedly sentimental Christmas story, set in an English coastal village at the close of the eighteenth century, the illustrations having a period flavor in their style as well as in their architectural or costume details. A small orphaned girl living with her aunts, Polly is convinced that three ships will, indeed, come sailing in on Christmas Day and that the door should be left open all night on Christmas Eve. Her aunts lock the doors, but there are three visitors in the night: a long-lost brother of the aunts, who leaves a purse of gold, a Frenchman who brings a rosary for Polly, and an old man near death. Next morning, three ships sail into the harbor, one of them carrying the wife and child the Frenchman had thought killed in the Terror. The writing style is polished, the plot patterned; although the protagonist is a child, this is not a childlike story.

Grant, Neil. Benjamin Disraeli; Prime Minister Extraordinary. Watts, 1969. 245p. (Immortals of History) Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$2.63 net.

Ad 7-10 A biography that concentrates on Disraeli's career, skimming briefly over his childhood and youth, going into great detail about his books (and the contemporary reaction to them) as well as about the impressive record of his ministry. The biographer sees Disraeli through no rose-colored glasses, and he is drawn as a man of tremendous wit, ability, charm, caprice, ambition, pride, and—in his earlier days—arrogance and flamboyance. The writing is plum-pudding style: a rather heavy consistency but studded with juicy raisins of anecdotes and Disraeli's quips. A brief bibliography and a relative index are appended.

Halliday, F. E. Chaucer and His World. Viking, 1968. 144p. illus. \$6.95.

A book for the mature reader, and probably only for those interested

R 9- in literature or history, for the writing is detailed and scholarly, only its elegance saving it from being tedious. Chaucer's life is so much a part and an example of the intrigue and romanticism of medieval times that the author's infrequent historical digressions are more than justified. The description and analysis of Chaucer's writing is more explanatory than critical. Profusely illustrated with photographs of cathedrals, tapestries, manuscripts, and effigies, the book has artistic distinction. A divided bibliography, a chronology, a section of notes on the illustrations, and an index are appended.

Hamilton, Virginia. The Time-Ago Tales of Jahdu; illus. by Nonny Hogrogian. Macmillan, 1969. 63p. \$4.50.

R 3-5 After school each day, Lee Edward stayed with Mama Luka until his mother came home from work. Each day, she told a story of Jahdu, sitting "in a fine, good place called Harlem . . . telling Jahdu stories to Lee Edward. She told them slow and she told them easy . . ." Breathless, Lee Edward listens to the stories of long ago, stories of the crafty boy who grew wiser and more powerful, and he knows that when he grows up he will be, like Jahdu, strong and proud. Both the Jahdu tales and the Harlem setting have a potent charm; the quiet black and white illustrations echo the dignity and affection of an enchanting book.

Hardendorff, Jeanne B., comp. Just One More; illus. by Don Bolognese. Lippincott, 1969. 169p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.39 net.

R 4-6 A retelling of forty stories, chosen for their brevity, for the occasion when an additional tale is begged for or a sample needed of the story-hour to come. This is a widely varied collection, good for independent reading or reading aloud as well as for telling; an appendage gives the source for each tale, the audience level, and the time each takes in the telling—half of the forty taking three minutes or less.

Hawkinson, John. Music and Instruments for Children to Make; by John Hawkinson and Martha Faulhaber; illus. by John Hawkinson. Whitman, 1969. 47p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$2.63 net.

M 2-3 A book that includes some excellent techniques, attractive illustrations, and instructions for making three simple musical instruments: a box harp, a set of pipes, and a bongo drum, also out of a box. Also suggested are such instruments as a can of dry beans, pot lids, et cetera. Various ways of making sounds and putting them together are suggested, and some simple instruction on singing is included. The text has a slight but rather persistent note of condescension ("Tap your name. Is it Rumpelstiltskin? What is it?" or "Read the little poem. It is a lullaby . . .") and seems addressed to children who are too young to read the book. Independent readers who can follow the instructions may well be put off by the tone of the writing. The illustrations are delightful. A preface is entitled, "How parents and teachers can use this book with children." Useful as the book may be in encouraging a participatory interest in music, it might have been more effective were it addressed directly to adults or written with more dignity for the independent reader.

Hellman, Hal. Defense Mechanisms; From Virus to Man. Holt, 1969. 150p.



illus. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.59 net.

- R  
5-8      A most interesting book about the amazing variety of ways in which members of the animal kingdom defend themselves from aggression, competition, disease, and extinction. The material is loosely organized, although chapters are focused on aspects of defense mechanisms such as protective coloration, the role of the senses, defensive behavior, and adaptation. Despite a rather coy first page the text is solid with facts but not dull, straightforward, and briskly competent. A list of suggested readings and an index are appended.

Hill, Kay. And Tomorrow the Stars; The Story of John Cabot; illus. by Laszlo Kubinyi. Dodd, 1968. 363p. \$5.

- R  
7-      An excellent biography, giving vivid pictures of Venice at the zenith of her power and of the ferment of exploration in the fifteenth century as well as of the dream-driven mariner John Cabot. Born Giovanni Caboto in Genoa, the boy had been sent to Venice to live with a wealthy uncle; well-educated, he became a Venetian citizen. Always lured by the prospect of finding a quick route to the Spice Islands, always in competition with Columbus and Vespucci, Cabot's belief that his English-sponsored expedition had reached Asia was rudely shattered by his rivals. The book closes on a note of hope and vision, as Cabot alone realizes that two new continents have been discovered. Written with brio, convincingly fictionalized, and carefully researched, the book has pace, suspense, action, and historical value. A bibliography is appended.

Hoban, Russell C. Best Friends for Frances; illus. by Lillian Hoban. Harper, 1969. 31p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.92 net.

- R  
K-2      A sequel to several popular picture books about the small badger who has gone, book by book, through the problems so familiar to small children. Having adjusted to the threat of a younger sister, Frances now has to cope with Gloria's wanting to play. Frances, above such things, turns to her friend Albert. Rebuffed by being refused a turn at bat ("This is a no-girls game.") Frances plans an elaborate picnic ("Best friends outing--no boys") with a delighted Gloria, and Albert falls into the trap. He trades best-friendship for a good meal after Frances has played hard-to-get for a while. The Hobans see through all the camouflage of small children to the calculations beneath; what makes the stories endearing is that both the writing and illustration show very clearly that the camouflaging procedures evoke a fond delight in the Hobans. The style is light and ingenuous, capturing with fidelity the cadence of child-like speech.

Horder, Mervyn, ad. On Christmas Day; First Carols to Play and Sing; ad. and arr. by Mervyn Horder; illus. by Margaret Gordon. Macmillan, 1969. 30p. \$3.95.

- Ad  
4-7      A pleasantly illustrated baker's dozen, arranged very simply by a British composer. Many, but not all, of the most familiar carols are included and the collection comprises several carols from various European countries. Brief notes are appended. The book is both attractive and useful, but limited by the absence of some standard carols ("Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," "Oh, Come All Ye Faithful," "Silent Night")

and it does not include enough unfamiliar material to supplement a standard collection.

Howard, Coralie. What Do You Want to Know? illus. by Laszlo Kubinyi. Simon and Schuster, 1968. 96p. \$3.95.

R  
4-6      A useful and stimulating book that gives no answers, but—moving briskly from topic to topic—suggests various avenues through which one does or can procure and assimilate information. The author discusses some of the learning processes: knowledge obtained through the senses, insight and logic, deduction and induction, objectivity versus bias. She also surveys communications media, reference materials, imagination, experimentation, and experience. In short, broad coverage of several related topics in a cogent book. A glossary is appended.

Huntington, Harriet E. Let's Look at Flowers; written and illus. with photographs by Harriet E. Huntington; drawings by J. Noel. Doubleday, 1969. 60p. \$3.50.

Ad  
3-5      Clear photographs and diagrams are used with a text that consists of short topics that describe floral structure (part by part) or that discuss single aspects of fertilization or pollination. The writing is straightforward and the information specific; the organization is the weakest aspect of the book, both because of the fragmented effect of the brief topics and because of the arrangement of material—for example, the discussion of flower clusters and composite flowers is separated from the discussion of sepal, petals, bracts, etc. by all of the material on reproductive devices.

Hyman, Trina Schart. How Six Found Christmas. Little, 1969. 28p. illus. \$2.95.

M  
K-2      "Once upon a time there was a little girl who had never heard about Christmas and therefore did not know what it was," this brief tale begins. The child goes hunting for a Christmas; each of the five she meets (cat, dog, fox, hawk, and mockingbird) joins her, sharing her ignorance and her curiosity. They find a green bottle in the snow, and the little girl, who thinks it very beautiful, decides that this is a Christmas, so she takes it home and fills it with pine and berries. "And lo! It was Christmas!" the story ends. The illustrations are quite delightful, the characterful animals set against a series of lovely scenes of snowy woods. The story is weak: slight of plot, too sophisticated in dialogue for the read-aloud audience, and the ending—despite the alluring idea that a bit of beauty is Christmas—anticlimactic.

Jordan, June. Who Look at Me. T. Y. Crowell, 1969. 97p. illus. \$5.95.

R  
5-      Twenty-seven paintings of black people are accompanied by poems that vary in strength and passion but that speak, on the whole, with piercing clarity of the pathos, beauty, pride, and anger in Negro lives. The format is dignified, and notes on the artists (some of whose work is reproduced in full color) are appended. The author, young and black, has interpreted some of the paintings rather narrowly, so that the poems cannot quite stand alone, but these are in the minority, and the quality of the writing is consistently compelling.

Jordan, Mildred. Proud to Be Amish; illus. by W. T. Mars. Crown, 1968. 144p. \$3.50.

R  
5-6 "Ach, I feel so for old Mrs. Keffer," said Mom, "even if she's Lutheran and Gay." But Katie didn't feel sorry for Mrs. Keffer's grandchild Gloria, who had a red dress. Amish girls didn't have red dresses, nor were they supposed to listen to radios; Katie shared with her twin brother Jake the little radio that belonged to their older brother, and they prayed that Pop and Mom wouldn't find out. Katie, troubled by her worldly desires, is much relieved to discover that even Mom and Pop occasionally fail to resist the temptations of progress—and that even Grossdawdi has capitulated! A pleasant story of the Pennsylvania farming country, the flavor of Amish life and speech much stronger than it is in the Brecht book, reviewed above. A glossary is appended.

Knight, David C. The First Book of the Sun. Watts, 1968. 89p. illus. \$2.65.

R  
6- An excellent discussion of the composition of the sun, the thermonuclear reactions that produce solar energy, observable phenomena, and the theories scientists have about all of these. The material is well-organized, with a description of the universe and our galaxy, a section on sun-worship in past cultures, and discussion of earlier astronomical theories preceding the major portion of the text. The book is lucidly written and there is a separate section on techniques and instruments used by scientists in obtaining solar information. The continuous text is organized by topic headings; the photographs and diagrams are clearly captioned, and an index is appended.

Latham, Frank B. Abraham Lincoln. Watts, 1968. 163p. illus. (Immortals of History) Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$2.96 net.

R  
6-9 A biography that concentrates on Lincoln's political career and on the Civil War, although it does not ignore his personal life. Although there is no new material here, the book has value because of its emphasis; quoting Lincoln's writing and speeches, it gives a vivid picture of his attitudes toward abolition, slavery, preservation of the Union, and conduct of the war. It also gives more background information about issues and conflicting opinions in Congress, the newspapers, and the political parties than do most biographies of Abraham Lincoln at this level. An index is appended.

Lee, Mildred. The Skating Rink. Seabury, 1969. 126p. \$3.75.

R  
6-8 "Looks like you just can't stand it to act like ever'body else. Got to be different—like you was tetch'd!" That was how Tuck's father felt. Girls teased him, and at school he was either tongue-tied or he stammered—as shy and lacking in confidence as a fifteen-year-old could be. Tuck's life is changed when Pete Degley builds a skating rink and secretly teaches the boy to become so expert that he does an exhibition number with Mrs. Degley on opening night. The ending is no dream-of-glory; Tuck has worked, despaired, worked on, and hoped for this one night that would show his family and his peers his true mettle. The setting is rural Georgia, the family situation bitterly realistic, and the relationship between Tuck and his mentor a bright note; the dialogue is good, the characterization splendid.

Littell, Robert. Left and Right with Lion and Ryan; illus. by Philip Wende. Cowles, 1969. 30p. \$3.95.

NR  
4-5  
yrs      The Circus Master was very angry because Lion couldn't obey the instructions of Ryan, the lion tamer, to jump through the ring on the right or to hang from the swing on the left. So Ryan took lion on a long, long ride; they rolled over a rattlesnake coming from the right, Lion caught a ladybug with his right paw, they saw a robber with rubies in his right hand, they saw a redskin on the right. "Was he shooting his arrow to the right?" So Lion learns right from left and the audience at the circus applauds. Quite unfunny, this strains for the humor of ludicrous exaggeration, but is so artificial as to be flat and repetitive. If the book is really intended to help small listeners learn, as is implied in the closing words, ". . . Lion had indeed learned his left from his right. Have you?" it is not adeptly done.

Little, Jean. One to Grow On; illus. by Jerry Lazare. Little, 1969. 140p. \$4.50

R  
4-6      Janie was so in the habit of telling lies that she often did so for no reason; she almost believed them herself. It didn't seem so bad to her until she realized that one of her friends was lying to her, and that she felt betrayed by Lisa. The one person to whom Janie never lied was her godmother and friend, Tilly; it was while she was on vacation with Tilly that Janie was faced with a surprise visitor: Lisa. Looking at Lisa, Janie was able to understand and control her own bad habit, but even more indicative of the maturity she was gaining was her ability to feel understanding and compassion for Lisa. Although the vacation sequence moves slowly, it offers a contrast to the vigorous scenes of family life that precede it; the book approaches a common problem with discernment, and the characters are wholly conceived—especially Jane and Lisa, and their roles in their circle of friends.

Mahy, Margaret. A Lion in the Meadow; illus. by Jenny Williams. Watts, 1969. 26p. \$4.95.

R  
5-7  
yrs      An oversize picture book with strong, bright, page-filling illustrations. The writing style is almost staccato but is an effective foil for a story about imaginative play, and it is strengthened by the lavishness of the pictures. The story begins, "The little boy said, 'Mother, there is a lion in the meadow.' The mother said, 'Nonsense, little boy.'" Mother says firmly that this is a made-up story; she gives the child a match box, telling him that there is a tiny dragon there that will grow huge when it is let free in the meadow, and that it will chase the lion away. Naturally, the boy makes capital of this, coming in to report that the terrible dragon had frightened him and the lion (who turned out to be friendly) away. Protesting that she had just made up a story, mother is firmly told that it had come true. "The mother never made up a story again." The idea of a parent coping with an imaginary situation isn't wholly new in picture books, but the theme is nicely handled and the ending should please and amuse young listeners.

Mendoza, George. Herman's Hat; illus. by Frank Bozzo. Doubleday, 1969. 44p. \$4.50.

M  
K-2      Herman was given a tall black hat by a clown, and was told that he must never take it off or everyone would know what he was thinking.

"Floating in dreams," Herman ran home. His mother laughed at him, his father scolded, but Herman would not take off the hat. In a dream of vengeance, Herman has the chance to save his father's life; he wakes, crying, to find his father's arms around him. The theme of protest is obvious, the acceptance equally so. The blending of realism and fancy is not smooth, but the story has moments of both humor and poignancy. The illustrations are sophisticated, subtle in the use of color.

Norris, Gunilla B. The Good Morrow; illus. by Charles Robinson. Atheneum, 1969. 92p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.59 net.

Ad  
3-5 The story of a camping experience and of an interracial friendship. Josie hadn't expected to enjoy the camp Ma had been so anxious for her to attend, and she knew—as soon as the white girl next to her on the bus started acting nasty—that she'd hate it. Nancy kept on being nasty and Josie, even though she knew Nancy was unhappy enough to cry at night, couldn't feel anything but resentment when overtures met only rebuffs. When they finally talked it out, Josie discovered that it wasn't because she was black that Nancy had been so hateful but because, a rejected child, she was so jealous of the loving mother who had been at the station to say goodbye, had sent Josie packages, had shown the love Nancy was sure her mother no longer felt because of the new baby. Purged and friendly, the girls went back to their cabin to start afresh. Realistic, rather deliberate of pace, but well-written and constructed with no unnecessary embellishments.

Offer, Charles K., ad. Salt above Gold; And Other Bohemian Folk Stories; illus. by Wendy D. Lewis. Watts, 1968. 64p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$1.98 net.

M  
4-6 A pedestrian retelling of six folktales, illustrated with pictures that are often busy with details and are occasionally marred by the tight binding. The print is crowded. Although this is a source for storytelling, the title story is available in many other versions, and themes of the other tales are familiar: the jealous neighbor who imitates the kind one, the young suitor who is helped by the small animals he had aided. The writing is stolid, and frequently awkward, as in "Salt above Gold" when the youngest daughter appears with the precious salt and says, "I want nothing, my dear Daddy, only that you love me as much as this salt."

Ormsby, Virginia H. Mountain Magic for Rosy; illus. by Paul E. Kennedy. Crown, 1969. 137p. \$3.50.

Ad  
4-5 A story of the mountain people of North Carolina. Rosy, oldest of the six Ray children, had been looking forward to the competition at the Mountain Folk Festival, but the family was poor and any money they might get would surely be spent on treatment for the baby's heart condition. She goes to Granny Fite for a magic spell that will cure the baby, but all her superstitious belief is jarred when she finds the old woman actually threatened by some boys who claim that she is in league with the devil. The devil turns out to be a folklorist collecting material, and the money he gives Rosy for making some tapes pays for both Rosy's trip to the contest and the baby's trip to a Knoxville clinic. The atmosphere, the people, and the dialogue are good, but the story is weakened by the fact that there is no logical reason for Rosy's reversal in atti-



tude, and somewhat by the fact that there is a considerable emphasis on one of her little brothers (a charming character) and almost no attention given to the other children.

Patterson, Lillie. Christmas in America; illus. by Vincent Colabella. Garrard, 1969. 64p. \$2.32.

Ad 3-5 A review of the traditions and customs of Christmas, chronologically arranged, that repeats much of the material in the author's Christmas Feasts and Festivals (Garrard, 1968; reviewed in the December, 1968 issue). There is, however, enough new material to make the book useful; like the companion book, this has a static quality in the writing and has no index.

Pid, Mr. The Day the Bicycles Disappeared. Luce, 1969. 63p. \$3.95.

NR 3-5 A lesson in bicycle care and safety regulations, laboriously fictionalized and not convincing. At the stroke of eleven, all the bicycles in a small town disappear one day (one with a baby in the basket) and convene to hold a protest meeting. Jody, the only boy in town to have taken perfect care of his machine, is allowed to be present and take notes of the bicycles' demands of their owners. Everybody agrees, and presumably a new day of safety and sanity dawns. A form that pledges to follow safety rules is appended. In addition to the purposiveness of the story and the conflict between the seriousness of the message and the fantasy of bicycles that can see and talk, the construction is fragmented and the story full of incidents irrelevant to both the fantasy and the purpose.

Ripley, Elizabeth. Hokusai; A Biography. Lippincott, 1968. 71p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.59 net.

R 6-9 One of the best in a good series of biographies of artists, partly because of the setting and partly because of the character of the artist: indomitable, ebullient, unconforming and often amusing. Dismissed by his master from a print design shop because of his unorthodox approach to art, Hokusai (who had not then adopted the name) led a hand-to-mouth existence until his work became popular. Prodigiously productive, highly versatile, bankrupt at the height of his career, Hokusai died at eighty-nine having changed his name fifty times. One fact remained unchanged, expressed by the tombstone inscription Hokusai chose: "Old Man Mad About Painting." A bibliography and an index are appended.

Rutgers van der Loeff-Basenau, Anna. Vassilis on the Run; illus. by George Mocniak. Follett, 1969. 192p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.99 net.

Ad 6-8 First published in the Netherlands in 1962. For five years Vassilis and his family had been political prisoners in Albania; now they had come back to Greece. Father had died a Resistance hero, but there was no recompense, no home for his family. Vassilis was sent to Athens to earn money, but fled when he was accused of stealing a bicycle; he took refuge on a ship and was pressed into service and became unwittingly involved in a dope ring; he escaped and was picked up by an Englishwoman, then made his way to a refugee village where he worked hard, cleared his name, and prepared—feeling the responsibility of the head of a household—to send for his mother and the other children. The set-

ting is interesting, the writing style and characterization good; the book is weakened by a too-busy plot and a repeated note of contrivance.

Serrailier, Ian. Chaucer and His World. Walck, 1968. 48p. illus. \$4.50.

R 8- A good addition to an excellent series of broad examinations of historical periods in England, each volume focusing on a major literary figure. Here the biographical section is brief (unlike Halliday's Chaucer and His World, Viking, 1968) and there is little discussion of Chaucer's writing, although examples from The Canterbury Tales are used throughout the book to illuminate a discussion of a profession or a custom. The writing style is direct and vigorous, the illustrations profuse, the print small.

Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman. Goodnight Andrew Goodnight Craig; illus. by Mary Chalmers. Harper, 1969. 32p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.92 net.

R 4-6 yrs "Craig." "What?" "I'm hungry." "Go tell Dad." "I'm not that hungry." "Craig." "What?" Two small boys have gone peacefully to bed; Andrew, the younger brother and occupant of the lower bunk, isn't sleepy. Craig tries to get to sleep but Andrew's insistence on conversation wakes him up; the boys get noisier and noisier, their father comes in with an ultimatum; eventually Craig and Andrew subside. The illustrations echo the engaging tone of the story, which is all in dialogue, and the boys sound like two small boys the world over.

Stanek, Muriel. Left, Right, Left, Right! illus. by Lucy Hawkinson. Whitman, 1969. 29p. \$3.50.

R K-1 Of the several books that have appeared in the last year about the achievement of knowledge in the telling-right-from-left department, this is the most effective. The reminder that grandmother gives Katie (a ring for the right hand) is a sensible one, the information that her mother had the same problem is reassuring to Katie, and the discomforts she has suffered (walking down the wrong side of the school stairway) are familiar to readers and are adequate motivation for Katie's own desire to learn. Simply written, realistic, and useful, the book's modest but pleasant illustrations show a bespectacled heroine.

Steinberg, Alfred. Dwight David Eisenhower. Putnam, 1968. 223p. \$3.29.

Ad 6-9 A serious and detailed biography, comprehensive in coverage and quite balanced in treatment. The tone is admiring but fairly objective, the writing style very stiff and often trite. Occasionally there are digressive passages; occasionally there are anecdotes about trivia. "Another time he established himself as a he-man among he-men during a kitchen inspection. Walking past a table, he grabbed a fistful of raw hamburger and chewed it as though it were an everyday habit. Eyes popped and elbows went into ribs in acknowledgment of his manliness." A relative index is appended.

## *Reading for Teachers*

To order any of the items listed here, please write directly to the publisher of the item, not to the BULLETIN of the Center for Children's Books.

Ackerlund, Sylvia. "Poetry in the Elementary School." Elementary English, May, 1969.

Berger, Allen. "Reading Readiness: A Bibliography." Elementary English, February, 1968.

Chall, Jeanne. "Learning-to-Read Debate." Instructor, March, 1968.

Daigon, Arthur. "Literature and the Schools." English Journal, February, 1969.

Freeman, Mae. "The Science in Children's Books." Physics Today, December, 1968.

Harris, Nelson. "The Treatment of Negroes in Books and Media Designed for the Elementary School." Social Education April, 1969.

Haviland, Virginia. "The Children's Book Section, Library of Congress." Social Education, May, 1969.

Hicks, Granville. "A Look at the Novel." Today's Education, April, 1969.

Lee, Doris; Bingham, Alma; and Woelfel, Sue. Critical Reading Develops Early. International Reading Association, 1968. 44p. \$2. (members, \$1.75) Available from I.R.A., University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware.

Middleton, Ray. "Strategies for Teaching Reading." The Reading Teacher, May, 1969.

Miller, Wilma. "A Reading Program for Disadvantaged Children." Illinois Schools Journal, Summer, 1969.

Morrison, Ida. Teaching Reading in the School. Ronald Press, 1968. 616p. \$7.50.

Stauffer, Russell. Teaching Reading As A Thinking Process. Harper & Row, 1969. 424p. \$8.95.

Whitehead, Robert. Children's Literature: Strategies of Teaching. Prentice-Hall, 1968. 234p. \$5.95; paper, \$3.50.



